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DOCUMENTS

[Though the editor now has a wealth of materials for publication in this department of the Washington Historical Quarterly, he always welcomes suggestions or copies of unprinted manuscript documents.]

The original journal of Dr. William Fraser Tolmie was deposited by the family in the Provincial Library of British Columbia at Victoria. There several copies were made, from one of which the following portion of the journal is printed. A visit was made to the above named library to check carefully the copy with the original, but it was found that Dr. Tolmie's son had withdrawn the original for his own studies. Comparison was then made with copies held by Clarence B. Bagley of Seattle and by George H. Himes of the Oregon Historical Society. It was then ascertained that the original copy had been blurred in spots by moisture. It is believed that the following record is as accurate as is possible to obtain. —[Editor.]

JOURNAL OF WILLIAM FRASER TOLMIE—1833

Tuesday, April 30. Off Cape Disappointment, (no sight) at noon 8 air 49, 29, 97 raining W. S. W. 12—49—29—94 rainy 63—14—49 S. E. by E. A few moments after, the summits of the hills appeared dimly seen, distant about 40 miles. At 9 it became clearer, the land was distinctly seen on either side, presenting a series of low undulating hills alternating with flats, and the whole supported a luxuriant growth of tall trees.

It seemed to us as if we were entering a firth or estuary. Large flocks of wild ducks closely agminated flying overhead and smaller ones skimming the surface of the foaming billows. A prodigious number of other birds almost darkening the air ahead actively engaged in the pursuit of prey, large masses of seaweed abundantly scattered about, perhaps affording them a supply of crustaceous and molluscous meals. Our position being uncertain, lay to and dropped the deep sea lead which reached a sandy bottom at 25 fathoms. The mate then declared his opinion that we were to northward of the Cape, and the Captain acquiescing wore the ship and steered S. E. at 10. . . .

Came on deck at 1. Cape Disappointment had just been recognized a quarter of an hour before bearing North by East and the C. tracked and steered for it having been mistaken in the supposition that we were to the northward of it. Examined the chart executed by the late Captain Simpson of the entrance to the Columbia River, and at 1½ went up to the foretopsail yard where the mate pointed out the different localities, and

land was perceptible from N. to S. E. and Cape Disappointment for which we steered bore N. W. about 12 miles distant. It is a bluff, wooded promontory, and the contiguous land of same character (that of a rolling country) stretches away to N. or N. by W. beyond which the sea again appears and the coast receding from Baker Bay to the eastward of the Cape, the land from N. to N. N. E. has an insulated appearance, which is heightened by your perceiving a higher range of hills immediately behind the Cape continues with those extending toward S. E. Chenooke Point, bearing about N. E. by E. was distinguished by a triangular yellow patch on an adjoining hill which the gloomy aspect of the surrounding forest made conspicuous. Here the line of coast was again broken and Point Adam was seen bearing about E. low, flat, and clad with trees; becoming gradually elevated until it terminated in a line of wooded hills which the eye could follow as far as the S. E. point. The summits of the hills did not jut out into sharp conical peaks as at Oahu, but were smooth and rounded. From the top sailyard I could see the N. and S. breakers rising impetuously over the bar, and when we were within about three miles we could perceive them from the deck. At 2 the C. thought it prudent to stand out to sea, and it was fortunate, as the atmosphere soon after became more dense, and the breeze stronger, and the perilous run would have been made under very unfavorable circumstances. . . .

In entering, the chief danger consisted in passing between the Cape and the South Spit, a narrow point which runs off from the Middle Grounds, which name was applied to that part of the bar above water. The channel is narrow and the depth of water only four fathoms. In passing between Middle Ground and Chenooke Point you are between Scylla and Charybdis, having on the left Chenooke shoal, and on the right the N. Spit to alarm you.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1ST

Fort George, 6 p. m.

Up at 7, and going on deck found that the Gannymede was making for the Cape with a favorable breeze from S. or S. E. The morning was beautiful, and ahead could be seen the north breakers sparkling in the sunshine and overspread with a thin vapor. We were about the same distance from the Cape as when we stood out yesterday, and distinctly viewed the hills in the interior on which the hazy mists of night were still lagging, especially in the clefts or ravines. The C. once or twice hesitated from the furious breaking of the sea over the bar, but the smooth surface presented by the channel at other times re-inspired him with courage, and we stood in and passed within 150 yards of the Cape at 8½, and at 9 were sailing across Baker's Bay in safety. In entering, could see land to a considerable distance northward of the Cape Peninsula. It was flat and wooded. The Cape is a steep, precipitous crag about 200 feet high, its sides grassy and shrubby and summit crested with pines. The coast for nearly a mile to the N. is of a similar description, hills pineclad on [to?] summits, with their sides bulging out into grassy knolls or mounds, and intersected with small ravines which were adorned with richer verdure.

In Baker's Bay the water was as smooth as glass bordered by a sandy

beach, and all around strewed with driftwood on its margin, the rising ground covered with pine. This spot appeared to me singularly beautiful, and from it I could view the dangerous breakers we had just passed with great complacency and thankfulness to Providence. . . .

At 10 boarded by a party of Chenooks off Point Ellice, one of whom, named George, offered himself as pilot. They were treated with biscuit and molasses and a glass of rum. At 11 Mr. Fisk, the person in charge of Fort George, arrived bringing the intelligence that Mr. Finalyson had set out in the *Lama* on the 12th ulto. to form a new settlement in the Russian territory to northward of Naase, that Dr. McLoughlin was at Ft. Vancouver with but very few assistants, that Mr. Douglas had accompanied the hunting party to New Caledonia, and is expected to return with them in June. Fort George seen from Point Ellice where the *Ganymede* lay at anchor did not much resemble its namesake in Scotland,—a few cottages perched on a green knoll close to beach with a small triangular space behind cleared, except the stumps, and all around it a trackless forest. Set out in Fisk's canoe for Fort George, distant six miles. Rather rough passage, got wetted, arrived at the Fort about 5, and occupied in drying clothes. . . .

The Fort is built on a rising ground at the head of a small creek or bay along the margin of which there are about half a dozen miserable looking wooden huts inhabited by Indians. About a gunshot from this are about the same number of comfortable looking cottages which constitute Fort George. Along the eminence goats were frisking about, browsing on rich but short clover grass. This steep space was laid out in cultivable lands. This is the original site of the Fort. Were shown a sable and beaver skin by Fisk. There is no arable land, but they have got a stock of goats and poultry. . . . At 7 our canoe was ready and we embarked. It was manned by five Indians, a Kanaka, and the Orkneyman. . . .

THURSDAY, MAY 2ND

12 p. m. Slept soundly and started out of a pleasant dream at 4½ this morning by John's shouting to rouse the Indians. Morning fine. On the densely wooded banks of opposite side, the mists are still hanging in graceful wreaths and heavy strata in the mountain valleys in the background. 8½. Saw several seals in first setting out. Their black heads bobbing up and down resembled small bouys, a heavy shower lasting for an hour came on at 6, but my extra cloak was armour of proof and I thank my stars that I had got a cloak instead of a heavy gray coat, for G. was put to many shifts to keep himself comfortable with a great coat cloak of gray plaid. The ample dimensions of my cloak enveloped me completely, and there being a layer of oilcloth between the [outer?] and inside lining, it was quite impervious to rain. The scenery along the banks has been of a monotonous character, a dense unbroken forest of pines covers them and the surrounding hills, the only interruption to this is where low sandy points project, these clothed with stunted willows and bushes, affording by their verdure a pleasant relief to the eye, tired with the sombre gloominess of the wilderness in the background. Where we slept, viz. Tongue

Point, 6 miles above Fort George, the river was perhaps 5 miles broad, now it is nearly 3. Saw several low shoals or sand banks, few of them above high water mark, and in passing between them grounded once or twice. Large flocks of geese and ducks numerous, but never within shot. At an eagle perched on a decayed stump 30 yards off, G. fired and missed. The bird of Jove sprung up fluttering as if shaking himself, and then soared away majestically soon after. Four were seen at once hovering over the lofty pines. 10 a. m. Arrived at Kahelamit village where it was proposed to breakfast. 4 huts in a line and two others detached placed at the base of a pinacled ridge constituted the hamlet. Some Indians were hewing wood, others at work in canoes, but the greatest number [squatted?] in front of the dwellings. They had 6 fine salmon in a canoe, but superstitiously refused to sell any because they were the first caught this season, and it is their firm belief that if the first caught salmon are not roasted in a particular manner, the fish will desert the river. Tantalizing as it was had to proceed without any and since 9½ have held our course between some beautiful islets where the channel at times is less than 20 yards in width and obstructed by enormous trunks which in some cases nearly form a natural bridge and shoot up stout saplings all along their whole length, with great regularity, passed a canoe fastened to the trunk of a tree on the bank about five yards from margin, containing the ashes of a chenooke. The Indians call these sepulchres Neimulush elihe, "the Place of the Dead." Breakfasted at a sunny little cove under right bank and got away about twelve. Wrote part of yesterday's journal and afterwards chatted with John about Ft. V. 5 p. m. Have since I been running before a steady breeze from northwest, having a sort of toy sail set in fore part of canoe. Banks becoming more elevated, still invested with dark pines,—that on our right, however, low and flat for some distance up and enlivened by a bright green foliage of willow and aspens. It terminates about two miles ahead in a wooded knoll termed Oak Point which closes the prospect of the river and makes it appear very narrow. 6½. having coasted along, we are now at Oak Point Village, consisting of three groups of huts, three in each, procured from Yugher, the chief, a droll-looking character with a square pit in the extremity of his nose capable of containing a small pea and his front of upper jaw lashed down to stumps—a leg of venison in exchange for a small quantity of powder and shot. Channel of stream narrow, less than a quarter of a mile. Left bank steep and scraggy. Began to read Cowper's Table Talk. Metrical errors occur in almost every line, but the ideas are fine and seriously expressed. 9½ p. m. Have been paddling along in the merry moonlight and since it became too dark for reading have been rousing the echoes with Auld Lang Syne, &c. and indulging in corresponding train of ideas "On the land of Brown Heath and Shaggy Wood," "Land of the Mountain and the flood." Evening surpassingly beautiful. The blue concave is cloudless and lit up with the starry hosts. Venus has just sunk behind the western bank. Ursa Major is nearly on the meridian and the "pale empress of the night" is riding in full-orbed majesty about a demiquadrant above horizon and sheds her mellow beams on the mighty stream here shut in by its banks so as to appear like a broad unruffled lake. 10½. Now encamping on a small wooded

islet; a blazing wood fire disseminates light all around and the pots are boiling furiously. The Indians have just upset their's and are philosophically laughing at their mishap, and the wolves on opposite bank are howling in concourse.

FRIDAY, MAY 3RD

Supped heartily last night on boiled venison; poor stuff. Wrote journal while fire emitted light sufficient and turned in at 1½, i. e. into tartan cloak; as it did not threaten rain, had no canopy of mats formed. Slept soundly till 5. Performed ablutions and started in half an hour. A dense fog stepped on the river but the blue sky overhead gave promise of a fine day and the sun appearing over opposite bank was slowly dispelling the mist. 8½. Have been coasting left bank and now arrived at Tawallish, a small lodge, near to which Keisno, the highest chief on river and his party are camped. The men are mostly clothed with blue capots, or great coats with a hood and are armed with knives, and their well polished muskets are ranged around a tree in military regularity. In front of hamlet, man, squaws and children are squatted. Keisno intends proceeding to the fort today. The mouth of Tawallish river, broad and open, appears a little above huts. Canoes going to Fraser's river ascend it. 9½. Have caught a snake 3 feet 6 inches long, 3½ inches in greatest circumference. 10½. Have come along right bank rugged and jutting out into bluffs adorned with saxifragas and sedums in flower. Overtaken and passed by two canoes from Tawallitch, the foreheads of all the inmates are flattened and their faces bedaubed with a pigment of an ugly brownish red color. On a high bluff and also on a small rocky islet the habitations of the dead are very numerous. The chenooks seem to choose [places?] most difficult of access to deposit the remains of their defunct friends. The islet is called Coffin Isle. 11½. Have stopped in a pretty little creek to breakfast. Temperature of air 58 degrees. Kiesno has arrived in his canoe and received from [us] a small donation of cheshire cheese. 12½. Have breakfasted on the remainder of venison and picked the bones clean. All our stores except the salmon and a few potatoes are expended. Again afloat and paddling with renewed vigour. For several miles the edge of river is bordered with willows, aspens, birch, etc. The scenery assumes a softer character. Some very picturesque little bays and creeks reach the acme of sylvan beauty, but the wild and savage pine exclusively occupies the ground becoming elevated. 3 p. m. Have been coasting along Deer Island since 1½ and its termination is fully a mile and a half ahead. Slender elegant-looking trees ornament its surface which is gradually elevated 20 or 30 feet above water. There are two parties of Indians encamped there fishing sturgeon. Saw one moored to a canoe at least 15 feet long. They had a long line set in the river floated by logs of wood at each [end] of line. They would not sell any sturgeon. 4 p. m. Cloudy, rainy appearance. Fired twice at an eagle but missed. Have just come in sight of a lofty mountain covered with eternal snow. It bears E. by S. and our course is about S. There is an extensive plain on easterly shore on which patches of oak are met with. 5½. Have been paddling for an hour reading Cowper's "Progress of Error." With the arrows of pol-

ished but cutting satire he attacks the modish follies of the day and rises to higher themes toward conclusion, addressing Lord Chesterfield, or rather his shade, under the name of Petronius, he condemns his epistles with just severity. Now at the mouth of the river which flows into Coulmbia in a S. W. by S. direction, the chief, Kiesno, lives on its banks and I now see his canoe a good way up, paddling homeward. McKay, a clerk retired from company service has settled 6 miles up. River nearly a quarter of a mile broad at mouth. Hills on left bank becoming higher and in the distance eastward a sugar loaf mountain seen last night to great advantage now rises in immaculate whiteness and buries its [acutely?] pointed summit in the cloud. Several flocks of geese seen flying to the north. A thin stratum of gray clouds veils the heavens. The water is smooth as a mirror and with equal fidelity reflects its leafy banks. 7¾. Now steering S. E. and for upwards of an hour have been assisted by gentle breeze. The eminence of background nearly excluded from view on right side by two parallel rows of dense bushy trees, which extend along for a considerable distance. Posterior now much taller than anterior. Shades of evening are now closing over us. 9 p. m. Have distributed brandy among the Indians and are now going to court "Nature's sweet restorer" in the bottom of canoe.

SATURDAY, MAY 4TH

Fort Vancouver. Slept tolerably till 3 when reached our destined port after nearly an eight months' pilgrimage. Knocked at the gate which, after some delay, was opened by the gardener, who I at once discovered to be a Celt. Our approach being announced to Governor McLoughlin, he appeared in shirt and trousers on the staircase of the common hall and welcomed us with a cordial shake of the hand. Sat down in dining hall and while refreshments were being prepared, communicated the political intelligence of Europe to Mr. McL. who is an able politician. Messrs. Cowie and Allan, gentlemen stationed at the Fort, and Captain Duncan, commanding the schooner Vancouver, now appeared and a lively conversation was kept up till about 6 when we betook ourselves to eating with right good will, having fasted since yesterday at 11. Our fare was excellent, consisting of superb salmon, fresh butter and bread, tea, with [rich?] milk and mealy potatoes. Having done ample justice to the good things, chatted with the doctor, as he is called, till about 7, then visited garden. Young apples are in rich blossom and extensive beds sowed with culinary vegetables are layed out in nice order, and under a long range of frames melons are sown. Afterwards visited patients, which are pretty numerous, and have been divided between us. Sat down to breakfast at 8 and ate half a boiled salmon. After breakfast engaged in putting apothecary's Hall in some degree of order, visited and prescribed for my patients, and thus occupied till 12 when dinner was announced. After dinner wrote journal till nearly 4 when visited a woman with subacute [...pleuestis?] In the evening putting apoth. hall, which is to be our temporary domicile, to rights, and am now, 10½, going to turn in. From what I have seen of Gov. like him and think my first propossessions will be confirmed by a longer acquaintance.

SUNDAY, MAY 5TH

Up at 6½ having slept soundly. Having conversed frankly with G. last night, proposed to him that we should reside permanently together in the present domicile as we should not then in all likelihood have intruders when arrivals of brigades occur. G. stated his wish that we should be separated, and from that we talked on our former differences and finally became reconciled, which am glad of, as it will add materially to our mutual comfort and happiness. Skinned snake caught on Friday. Read Bogatsky before breakfast. Afterwards visited patients and attended Episcopalian morning service read by Gov. in dining hall. The square was now occupied with upwards of 100 horses and Indians who are busy last self besides a large cavalcade of Canadians and boys set out for Vancouver Plain by a road leading through a pine wood, the *navigation* of which was difficult. After half an hour's dangerous scrambling through brush and brake and stumps entered plain which extends for about 15 miles down river and is generally a mile in breadth. Its surface is diversified with ckumps of trees and lakes of water, and profusely bedecked with beautiful flowers, amongst which I noticed particularly a large species of lupin, a blue orchidous looking plant called kames and the root of which is baked underground and eaten by the Indians. A great variety of others seen did not attract so much attention. Rich and luxuriant grass afforded abundant pasturage to three or four hundred cattle which in different herds were met with as we cantered along. At 1 p. m. reached a lake three or four miles in circumference, bordered by trees in full foliage. On its shores flocks of wild ducks feeding and swallows in thousands skimming its surface. Passed several smaller lakes in returning and met cavalcade of Canadians cantering along and [thence followed by?] The scene was now very animating. There were the Canadians, mostly dressed in blue capots, large glazed hats with a red military belt, and having their coal black hair dangling in profusion about their shoulders—wild, picturesque looking figures and their horses rougher and more shaggy than themselves. All around were herds of beautiful cattle, cropping the rich herbage or listlessly loitering under trees, horses, goats, etc., seen in every direction attending to the cravings of nature. On the banks wild ducks abundant, and now and then the solitary heron could be seen standing motionless in shallow water watching the motions of the [devoted?] minnows. Wood pigeons started from a clump of trees in one large covey. In retraversing the pine wood, the Gov. pointed out to me a tall slender tree having a profusion of large *syngenesius* flowers called here devil's wood. Having been informed that the root was employed in the W. S. [or U. S.?] for the cure of intermittents, Mr. McL. used it here last season in doses of dried root in powder and [had] success in subduing disease without cinchona too. Sugar maple also grows in this wood. Got home and dined about 2½. Afterwards looked over introduction to 1st No. of the Canton Miscellany begun in 1831. It is well written on the whole, though diffused and prosy. Rode out with Gov. and Cowie to see the farm which extends along the banks of river to east of Fort. There are several large fields of wheat and pease, and one of barley, with extensive meadows. Heard a low howling and approaching found a party of from 30 to 40 Indians, men, women, and

children, performing their devotions. They formed a circle two deep and went round and round, moving their hands as is done in [calling?], exerting themselves violently and simultaneously repeating a monotonous chant loudly. Two men were within the circle and kept moving rapidly from side to side making the same motion of arms, and were, I am told, the directors or managers of the ceremony. Having continued this exercise for several minutes after we beheld them, becoming more and more vehemently excited, they suddenly dropped on their knees and uttered a short prayer, and having rested a short time resumed the circular motion. During the ceremony so intent were they that not an eye was once turned toward us although we stood within a few yards in an encampment close by. Several persons were squatting around the fires. The dwellings formed of poles covered with skins looked very wretched. Felt a sensation of awe come over me when they knelt and prayed. The Gov. says that they have invited the Europeans in observing the S. as a day of rest. In the [eve?] visited the schooner Vancouver just rebuilt and now almost ready for sea. After tea talked with Gov. and G. on the reform bill, corn laws, etc. Have agreed with G. to have alternate days of taking patients under charge and to commence tomorrow. Or [tomorrow?] if we are spared to table and arrange medicines.

MONDAY, MAY 6TH

Received intimation this morning at 4 of Plant's death. Mr. McL. did not think it advisable, when I spoke at breakfast, that body be inspected as from the force of Canadian prejudices such a thing had never been done. Must endeavor to overcome these prejudices when I become better acquainted with their nature and extent. Up at 7½ and after breakfast commenced examination of medicines and continued at work till 6½. It will be a week before we get comfortably settled. Our apartment is 13 paces long by 7 broad and extends in E. and W. direction, the roof about 20 feet from floor supported by two rafters and 2 transverse beams. In front is the door and a pretty large window—posteriorly—a window and back door one on each side and in the middle a large fire place, without any grate, built of stone and lime. The walls are formed of rough, strong horizontal [deals?] attached at their extremities to perpendicular ones. Against the northern wall are placed our bedsteads, between them a large chest and in front a small medicine shelf. Strong shelves of unplanned deal occupy two posterior thirds of south wall and contain the greater part of medicines. Anteriorly there is a small heater and a painted shelf on which have to-day placed small quantities of medicine most frequently in use. The deals composing floor are in some places two and three inches distant from each other, thus leaving wide apertures. This is also true of the deals in the walls and the chinks are numerous; by those to N. can look into school room. The house to S. is unoccupied at present. Shall close all apertures with brown paper pasted, or leather. The partition is to extend from the foot of my bed to extremity of large shelves on left and the abutment in front to be the surgery. The posterior is our bed room and I expect we shall have it busy soon. Our attendant is a Sandwich Island boy named Namahama. He is slow in his motion as a sloth

but quiet and docile and will improve. Keep up a blazing pine fire usually; our only fire iron is a pole about 6 feet long with 6 inches of iron rod fitted to its extremity and is a good apology for a poker. Filled some 8 or 10 quart vials with few tinctures on hand and arranged them on front shelf. There is an excellent supply of surgical instruments for amputation, 2 trephining, 2 eye instruments, a lithotomy, a capping case, besides 2 midwifery forceps and a multitude of catheters, sounds, bandages, probings, 2 forceps, etc. not put in order. At 6½ attended Plant's funeral. The procession made up by McL., Cowie and self and about twenty-five servants, Europeans, Islanders, and Canadians sent out from Plant's house. The coffin unpainted slung on pieces of canvass and thus borne by young men. Passing through a pretty grove of young oaks and young trees we arrived at burial grove which is situated in a fertile upland meadow beautified by wild flowers and trees in flower. The funeral service read by Gov. The great want here is the ground not being enclosed. Some of the graves are surrounded with palisades but the greater number are merely covered with stones and logs of wood. The behaviour of the servants was decorous and befitting the solemn occasion. The character of the deceased was not such as to make his death a matter of regret to his fellows. He had been a noted bruiser, distinguished for a quarrelsome disposition, but having the redeeming quality of unflinching courage and hence being a valuable attendant in moments of danger. In the evening had some conversation with the Gov. on farming. Wheat here yields a return of 15-fold; barley from 40 to 50; maize requires the richest soil, barley, hay, then wheat, and lastly oats or peas.

TUESDAY, MAY 7TH

Sat chatting with Mr. Cowie last night in his apartments adjoining the office until nearly 11. Afterwards wrote log and conversed with G. until past 12. To-day has been unprolific in events of interest. By our labours we have brought apartment somewhat near to state of order and tidiness but there is still much to be done. Borrowed from Gov. first and second vol. of Humboldt's Personal Narrative of Travels in So. America. Sowed Dahlia seeds in garden under a frame, visited a store; it seemed in a state of confusion. Blankets are the most abundant, while strouds, trinkets, etc. assist in forming the miscellaneous list. Looked out for two calico jacket [and] tartan [check?] Now, 9½, going to begin Humboldt.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8TH

Began Cowper's poem on tenth but soon laid it aside and accompanied G. along river's bank for a short distance upward. There is a nice pebbly beach well [suited?] for bathing, edged with verdant trees and brushwood, and elegant wild flowers of various species. Armed with guns and fired once but result in my case doubtful. After breakfast resumed labours in dispensing and busy till 5 p. m. Sent calico and tartan to the doctor's who has kindly offered to get them made up by his family. At 6 G. and I set out to walk along the farm with guns and I having vasculum. On passing farm [shedding?] which is extensive and placed about 300 yards above Fort, we struck up toward the

wood and then walked along an upland plateau which reached for about 2 miles to eastward from near Fort to where the dense forests obstruct the view. Its breadth is about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile and it presents a rounded bluff face to northward, beautified with elegant columbines, luxurious lupines and other plants equally attractive but unknown. From this part to bank of river is a low plain generally $\frac{3}{4}$ mile broad and divided by fences into large wheat, barley, or pea fields or broad meadows, 2 ponds abounding in ducks diversify the same somewhat, but add little to its beauty, their banks being of a dry and sandy nature. G. and I. walked along the plateau by the border of [the] wood, now admiring the rich groves of lupin amidst the trees mixed with handsome columbines, sun flowers, and a great variety of herbacious plants in flower. On the borders of [the] wood there were some enchanting spots and my heart bounded with delight and enthusiasm as I surveyed them. Thin gray clouds mellowed, without much obscuring, the rays of the departing sun and this lent an air of softness to the face of nature, and there being scarcely any wind the glimpses of the magnificent Columbia obtained through interruptions to the belt of wood which skirts its northern shore showed it to flow placidly and musically along. On its southern shore, great trees extended in a narrow strip along lowlands, but, behind, a range of undulating hills perhaps 500 feet high stretched east and west and in the background the colossal Mt. Hood, to-day much freed of his gilded investment, reared his lofty summit above the clouds. The tout ensemble was the finest combination of beauty and grandeur I have ever beheld. At $6\frac{3}{4}$ reached extremity of plateau and just going to face about when I saw a bushy animal with a large cocked tail striped white and brown and about the size of a large cat about 100 yards ahead. He perceived us and made off, but seeing him tardy in his movements gave chase and soon gained on him and admired his beauty as he ran with his tail spread out like a fan or tail of a turkey cock. He stopped under the shade of a huge pine, grinned and stood at bay, but I let fly and soon settled his hash. Immediately thereafter a most diabolical smell declared him a polecat [malgre?] the skunk.

Despite the stink, we carried him by the brush to the vicinity of the fort where we concealed him for examination tomorrow, arriving just in time for tea and met a Mr. McDonald, who has returned from an exploring expedition to the Willamette river and gives a very interesting account of the country. Fertile, extensive plains abounding in excellent oak,—these invite the husbandman. Traces of coal exist and he has now brought a specimen of limestone rock. In one part salt springs are numerous and are much frequented by the deer. More salmon caught there than in other parts of this neighborhood and there our supply is derived. Am giving G. the polecate as I shall not have time to examine and [to cure?] its skin. Collected a specimen of the Devil's tree used as a purge in W. S. [or U. S.?] and tried it in a few instances.

THURSDAY, MAY 9TH

Up at 6. Examined plants procured last night. It is I think *Cornus Florida* which, in the U. S. is sometimes substituted for cinchona in a doze of . . . or . . . powdered bark; its composition is

Cinchonanie quinine and gum. After breakfast visited patients who are all in an improving way, and was, on my return, informed by Mr. McL. that I am to be despatched to northward in the Str. Vancouver which is to set out on a trading voyage in a few days along the coast. Shall probably be left with Mr. Finlayson at the new fort on Millbank Sound which is to supplant Fort Simpson. The situation of settlement is pointed out as being on an island which forms the south bank of north branch of Salmon river, at the entrance to Sound about latitude 51 30 N. Long. 127 W. The projected establishment to N. is in latitude 57°, Long. 132°. The site pointed out is on a narrow channel in the Sitka archipelago, or rather the Prince of Wales which runs between Duke of York's land and some other nameless islands to north about 1 and 1/2 mile broad and the spot proposed is on its eastern or mainland shore. It will not interfere with the Russians as they have no posts to south of Norfolk Sound. I would have preferred remaining here but *il n'import* [?]; as we are to coast a great part of the way and touch at several stations in Puget Sound and the Gulf of Georgia, the voyage I anticipate will be agreeable.

In the north must be constantly armed to the teeth as the Indians are dangerous. Busy during the day in acquiring information regarding medicines necessary to be taken, etc. In the evening walked out with G. along Vancouver Plain. It is a continuation of that to eastward of Fort described yesterday. Below Fort for some way it is covered with gigantic relics of the primeval forest which form a broad belt of wood extending to eastward. Proceeding along a rough road passing through a wood, the magnificence and grandeur of its colossal tenants was very impressive and the ground was beautifully carpeted with wild flowers and low creeping evergreen shrubs. Many of the pines were stripped of their bark for a few feet above root and the turpentine was profusely exuding in large pellucid drops. Traveled along the grassy level plain for nearly a mile and then plunged into the forest which skirted it on right or north side. Did not find it very impenetrable, there being little underwood. Soon emerged again and returned homewards. What an excellent cricket field this part of plain would make. The site of it would throw Wilkinson into ecstasies. After tea were visited in our domicile by Mr. McKay, the farmer in Willamette, who returned thence with Mr. McDonald yesterday. He has traversed the country west of the Rocky Mountains in all directions. The Snake party of trappers of which so much was heard but so little learn't on board the Ganymede proceeded to the territory around Lewis or the great Snake River and its northern branch and sometimes enter the northern part of [Maquies?] in the Snake country. They are much annoyed by the Blackfeet Indians from the other side and some sharp skirmishes often occur. Their mode of traveling is on horseback with beaver traps slung by the saddle and they stop at all places where beaver are found until they have exhausted the spot, except where molested by the Indians. They live on buffalo meat. Here several American parties have been massacred by the Indians but the Company's have always escaped at the worst with the loss of a few lives. New Caledonia is the resort of another large party and their mode of traveling and hunting is similar, only they have not so much to apprehend from the Indians. This country last season produced

10,000 beaver skins which generally weigh about 1 pound each and are sold in London at 25 sh. per pound. There are no buffaloes and few deer in this country and fish is the support of the hunters. No hunting parties as yet despatched from Fort Simpson. McKay has had many encounters with the bear and the best way he says when a wounded bear rushes at you is to stand and reload and when he comes near, if your gun is unloaded, look at him steadily and he will not attack but raised on his hind legs will continue to return your gaze until tired of his position, when he betakes himself quietly off.

FRIDAY, MAY 10TH

Up at 7. Wrote part of yesterday's log before breakfast, being too much fatigued last night to go on with it. After having visited patients, looked out several articles of clothing in the store as I must now lay in a stock for a year, in case I may be detained in the north. At all the outposts the goods are advanced in price 33 1-3 pct. for the Indian trade, as every servant of the Company's is expected to supply himself at headquarters. After dinner, decided on getting a rifle here and got Mackay to choose one for me. Have been pondering on the propriety of this step ever since arrival and the dangerous nature of the country I am going to, and there being no rifles for sale there, besides that sooner or later I must have got one,—these considerations weighed in favor of my supplying myself at present, notwithstanding that I am in arrears with the Company. The rifle cost 150 sh., has a flint lock, platina touch hole and twist barrel about four feet long, and weighs 8½ pounds only. Shall try it tomorrow. In the afternoon busy in arranging the Vancouver's medicine chest. After tea walked for an hour with McDonald up and down the avenue from the river to Fort gate, I giving him Invernessshire news and receiving in return, as I introduced the subject, useful information regarding this country. Mac. is a native of [Artaroff?] and commenced his career under Lord Selkirk for whom he enlisted about 40 Highlanders from the Kew river settlement in 1806. His party rendezvoused at Inverness, a countryside of Glengary, whose tenants he had urged as volunteers. He therefore dispatched a posse of men to Inverness to apprehend the deserters but Mac, apprised of their approach, marched his band to the hills and proceeded during the night along by the braes of Culloden to Croy, came down to the sea at Fort George and embarked his men on a small schooner for Kirkwall where Lord Selkirk was with the bay ships. McDonald, of Midmills was the Company's agent at Inverness. The Northwest Companies had had settlements all through New Caledonia and the Snake country but their only fort along the coast was Fort George. The union took place in 1820. Lord Selkirk, besides his stock in the Company's funds, had, for his services, received an interest in the business which now yields his family 10,000 pounds annually. The Dr. informed me some days ago that it was owing to the precipitation of one of the M. G.'s, I think W., in declaring himself a bankrupt, that the M. W.'s estate did not pay in full, it yielding 15 percent under great disadvantages. My disbursements at the store amount to 14.11-2.

SATURDAY, MAY 11

Up at 7. After breakfast showed rifle to McDonald who got Depote a noted marksman to try it; but he, after three shots, declared the barrel poor and the sight improperly constructed and it is now in the hands of the carpenter who understands the thing and is to make the necessary alterations. Busy all day getting up Vancouver's chest and invited in the evening to have some ball practice with G. but was requested by Gov. to copy a correspondence between Company and Russia for Compy, with which have been employed since 6 p. m.